

Bartonia, xv. 30 (1933), with "achene . . . at least distally with low warty knobs". That the latter species is not separable from *F. Baldwiniana* I showed in RHODORA, l. c.

The type of *Scirpus sulcatus* Ell., photographed by Mr. and Mrs. Weatherby, was recorded by Weatherby in RHODORA, xlv. 261 (1942) as identical with *F. diphylla* (Retz.) Vahl, with the note that it had been determined by Boynton & Beadle as *F. laxa*. There has been considerable confusion, for *F. laxa* was described from South America, as a plant with filiform leaves and decompound umbels. Our *F. Baldwiniana* was misidentified with it in Britton & Brown, Ill. Fl. ed. 1 (1896) and in Gray's Man. ed. 7 (1908) but the error was corrected in ed. 2 (1913) of Britton & Brown. The identification of Elliott's plant with *F. diphylla* can hardly stand, for, as already noted, the latter, occurring in tropical America and the Old World, northward with us into Georgia, is a much coarser perennial, with almost rigid leaves, with very compound inflorescences and with achenes not tuberculate-roughened.

Recently, *F. Baldwiniana* has appeared, in McVaugh, Ecol. Monog. xiii. 151 (1943), as a synonym of *F. annua*. Close study of the achenes of the latter Old World plant would reveal real differences. Only if we merge as one species the tufted and stoloniferous *F. caroliniana* (Lam.) Fern. and the densely cespitose, hard and nonstoloniferous *F. castanea* (Michx.) Vahl because fragmentary pieces (not good specimens) look superficially similar, or unite the American *Eleocharis obtusa* (Willd.) Schultes and the circumboreal *E. ovata* (Roth.) R. & S. because superficially they resemble one another (but have different tubercles) can *Fimbristylis Baldwiniana* be merged with *F. annua*.—M. L. FERNALD.

THREE NEGLECTED NAMES IN SCIRPUS.—SCIRPUS CERNUUS Vahl var. **californicus** (Torr.), comb. nov. *Isolepis leptocaulis* Torr., Bot. Whipple Exped. 97. 1857. *Isolepis pygmaea* var. *californica* Torr. Bot. Wilkes Exped. 476. 1874.

In its North American dispersal *Scirpus cernuus* Vahl (long known as *Scirpus riparius* (R. Br.) Spreng.) is, unlike the superficially similar *Scirpus setaceus* L., native. Although the achenes are apparently identical with those of the European

material of the species, habitally the plants of this hemisphere are quite different, being characterized by generally shorter, stouter, often somewhat curved and densely clumped culms. The North American variety, which occurs in wet places near the coast from British Columbia south to Mexico, is more closely related to the South American material, *Scirpus cernuus* Vahl var. *pygmaeus* (J. Ball) Dusén, than to the European typical *S. cernuus* Vahl.

S. CUBENSIS Poeppig & Kunth var. **gracilis** (Boeck.), comb. nov. *Scirpus ablepharus* Griseb. Cat. Pl. Cub. 240. 1866. *Anosporum cubense* Boeck. var. *gracile* Boeck. Linnaea **36**: 414. 1869-70. *Kyllingia scirpina* Rehb. in Boeck. Linnaea **36**: 414. 1870.

Like *Scirpus cubensis* but culms slender, with narrow leaves only up to 5 mm. broad, and equally narrow involucre bracts; heads small, only up to 1 cm. broad. Inland swamps of tropical and subtropical America.

S. CYPERINUS (L.) Kunth forma **cephaloideus** (Sheldon), comb. nov. *Scirpus sylvaticus* f. *cephaloideus* Sheldon, Minn. Bot. Studies **1**: 68. 1894.

The type is from Mille Lacs County, Minnesota. This form, characterized by its congested panicles, is otherwise identical with typical *Scirpus cyperinus*.—A. A. BEETLE, University of California, Davis, California.

ACTAEA ALBA VERSUS ACTAEA PACHYPODA

H. A. GLEASON

MACKENZIE in 1928 (*Torreyana* **28**: 51-52) and Fernald in 1940 (*Rhodora* **42**: 260-264) have discussed the nomenclature of the plant commonly known as *Actaea alba* (L.) Mill. Both surprisingly came to the same conclusion that this familiar plant of the Manual Range should be known as *Actaea pachypoda* Ell. Their reasons for reaching this opinion were different. Mackenzie believed that the Linnaean name, originally published as a variety of *A. spicata* L., belongs to the white-berried form of *A. rubra*, while Fernald believed that it properly belongs to the European *A. spicata*. Under either belief the epithet *alba* would